



Volente View

city.secretary@volentetexas.gov 512.250.2075

16201 Dodd Street, Suite 100 , Volente, TX 78641

Congratulations!

Mark Metro, Tim McMillen, and Tom Blauvelt

on your election to the Village Council. Our new council members were sworn in on November 16, 2020 by the Honorable Judge Denise Trash.

City Council News

Council Meeting Actions:

October • held a Town Hall Meeting on October 26 to discuss and receive input on the Interlocal Agreement between the Village of Volente and the Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority. • approved the Interlocal Agreement with the Brushy Creek Regional Utility Authority on October 28. • held a Village Hayride on October 30.

November • approved a Resolution of the Village Council of the Village of Volente, Texas, Canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the General Election, held on November 2, 2021, for the purpose of electing three (3) council members: and received votes as follows: Mark Metro 114; Timothy McMillan 117; Mary Scherer 93; Tom Blauvelt 142. • approved a Conditional Use Permit requested by the BCRUA that restricts the Maintenance Building not to exceed 3,000 sq. ft. (invasive mussel control systems, chemical storage, electrical, and other appurtenances) per the approved Site Plan. • approved a Village Christmas Event and a photo shoot with "Ole Red." • Discussed reissuing an RFQ for engineering services, replacing the mayor's bench to correct a misspelling on the bench, and decided to forgo

participation in a Global Opioid settlement.

• The Mayor introduced Marcia Elliott, as a temporary administrative clerk, to our community. He also reported that we have our first of two tranches of American Rescue Funds. He will be looking for citizens to get involved with the decision-making process on how to best use these funds. He also informed the citizens that the residents of Mary and Brandy Way have requested deferral of installing the rumble strips on Mary. He announced the expiration of the Committee members terms for the P&Z, BOA, and Standing Committees and encouraged everyone to apply for a position on a committee and asked that everyone touch base with their friends/neighbors about serving on a committee.

*Happy
Thanksgiving*

The Village Council thanks the many volunteers who provided services to our residents during this past year.

Mayor's End of the Year Letter to the Citizens of Volente

Dear Citizens,

This has been an eventful year, with yearlong intense negotiations with BCRUA, Covid and Snovid, as well as moving our Village Office to a new location. We've made substantial progress in modernizing the Village Office; however, there are many steps still to be taken to ensure the office can easily transition from volunteer Council to Council. We had a slow start getting the Village committees in place, but once running there was plenty of progress and more importantly a sense of inclusion brought more people to step up to be part of the community.

Next year's primary goals will be renewal of the Comprehensive Plan and road maintenance. Both will be pivotal and expensive actions impacting the Village for many years. It will be important to have as much community involvement as practical for these exercises to be successful.

We were gifted with 4 exceptional candidates for the 3 open Council positions in this year's election. Unfortunately, only 3 could be elected, but it was very encouraging to see the remarkable knowledge and passion of all the candidates. The new Council will meet soon to develop its goals for 2022 as well as begin the process of establishing the committees. Please help by becoming involved by applying for the committees and attending meetings.

I'd like to thank both Sonja De La Fuente and Melissa Seltman, who brought in substantial experience and patience to effectively rebuild our office.

In closing I want to express my appreciation to our outgoing Council members, Isabelle Evans, Claudia Wilson, and Ed Racht. I personally felt blessed to have their support and counsel. Isabelle was in the office every day helping with every aspect of running the Village office. Her leadership of the Public Relations Committee brought the Village back together by improving the website, re-establishing the newsletter, and facilitating gatherings when practical. She is a gracious and patient educator that brought me through a steep learning curve. Claudia is passionate about getting a job done correctly and timely. She led the Public Works Committee which put in an extreme amount of time and effort to become knowledgeable about our roads and their maintenance requirements. They established the pathway to ensure next year will be a year of actual road work. I know they were disappointed that we could not move quickly with Travis County on the roads, but without their perseverance we would be directionless on the care of the most valuable asset of the Village, our roads. Ed Racht was a very busy man this year, besides being our Mayor Pro Tem, he was our de facto Surgeon General guiding the Village with real time information regarding the epidemic and vaccine. I really appreciate his calm and articulate communication during the COVID pandemic.

As I mentioned earlier we are blessed to have the caliber of Citizens in this community willing to share their time and knowledge. I'm encouraged that next year will bring even more volunteer talent and enthusiasm resulting in the Village becoming more cohesive and stronger.

Sincerely,

Dan

Volunteering in Volente

Each year the council invites the residents to join one of the Village's committees. The members of these committees provide an invaluable service to the community. Please consider volunteering your time and talents and completing an application for one of the committees. There are (3) two-year commissioner and (1) one-year commissioner positions open on the Planning & Zoning Commission this year. There is also one alternate position available. There are also openings on the Board of Adjustments: (3) two-year member appointments and (1) two-year alternate appointment.



The Standing Committees are:

Budget, Finance & Administration; Public Relations; Governmental Relations; Public Safety; Parks & Environment; and Public Works. [Click here](#) to learn more about the function of each committee and download an application for committee membership. You can also pick up an application at the Village Office.

Applications will be accepted until December 21.

New Requirement This Year: Everyone needs to complete an application, even if you have served on any of these committees in the past.

Holiday Events



The Village will be setting up the 2021 holiday display with Ole Red and a tree in Steichen Park on November 28th at 10:00. Come join us for some Volente Holiday spirit. Then help

celebrate "Ole Red's" 60th anniversary by snapping a photo with Ole Red and create your own Christmas memory. A Village wide event at Steichen Park is being planned. Details of the event will be posted on the Website and sent out by email.



Did you know?

The Office of Mobility Management for Central Texas will furnish rides for residents in the Volente area. The rides can be for appointments or for shopping. You can contact this office at 512-369-6047 or email [Tina Porter](mailto:Tina.Porter@centraltexas.gov), Trip Planning Specialist, to schedule a ride. You can learn more about the services at [The Office of Mobility Management](http://www.centraltexas.gov/office-of-mobility-management).



You can receive burn ban text alerts by signing up through the [Travis County Fire Marshall Website](http://www.traviscountyfire.org). To register follow this link.

Controlled burn authorization may be provided through the [Volente Fire Department](http://www.volente.org/fire-department) (512-258-1114).

Volente Spirit

Thanks to Eric Peeters and his son, Matthieu, for completing a sign inventory for the Village.

Thanks to everyone who made the Volente Newsletter a reality. Thanks to Bethany Reinhart for putting the June/July newsletter together.

Special thanks to the man behind the scenes, Bob Evans, for his tireless work on our Village Newsletter, postcards, and graphics.

Thanks to Cynthia Mallow for encouraging the residents of Reed to decorate their gates and participate in the hayride. And thanks to all the residents for being at your driveway to say hello to the hay riders and providing treats for them.

Do You Remember?

Volente has been used by films throughout the years. Most recently we have seen the directors of the Walking Dead use the lake area for filming. In 1993 VJ's store and restaurant were used for a scene in the movie [A Perfect World](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0108751) starring Kevin Costner and directed by Clint Eastwood. Unfortunately, the scenes were cut and not used in the movie. Here is a picture of **Bob and Diana Freeman**, their daughter **Mindy**, and their son **Larry** with Clint Eastwood and Kevin Costner that was taken inside the store. Volente resident Michelle Wolfe is also pictured.



Congratulations

Congratulations to the **Vandegrift High School Band** for placing Second in the University Interscholastic League state competition. This is indeed an honor as all bands in Texas compete for the top placements. Hours and hours of practice and competitions go into this accomplishment. Great job! Our Volente band students are Ava Blauvelt, Emma Heslinga, and Chase Robinson.



Congratulations to **Jan Yenawine** for being recognized by CivicPlus's Small Town American Civic Volunteer Award.

If you know about one of our Village residents who has been honored, please let the Village Secretary know so we can publish it in the Newsletter.

Year End Standing Committee Reports

Public Relations Committee members for the 2021 year are **Council Member Isabelle Evans, Judy Graci, Laura Voorhis, and Cindy McCuistion**. They have done an outstanding job throughout this year. Certainly, the most visible and recent event was the Hayride on October 30. I especially want to thank Cindy and her husband Rodger, for providing the truck, trailer, and the hay bales. The Committee has reestablished the publication of the Village Newsletter. The old email list was revived and edited, and emails are being sent out. The committee has helped in keeping the Village sign updated. The committee also helped last year with decorating for Christmas at the Fire Hall. Last year the Village provided a photo shoot opportunity with "Ole Red" and will do this again. A Christmas event is being planned. Thank you, Judy, Laura, and Cindy for your volunteer service.

Governmental Relations Committee members are **Council Member Ed Racht, Tom Blauvelt, Judy Schlotzhauer, Brent Piercey, and Tony Ruff**. During this year the Committee developed and wrote a charter for the Committee. The charter includes supporting the Council as designated liaison with other governmental entities; assist with communication between residents and local business and other entities; provide longitudinal oversight of the BCRUA project; and monitor activities of non-Village governmental entities. Thank you, Tom, Judy, Brent, and Tony, for your service to the community.

Budget, Finance, and Administration Committee members are **Council Member Kit Hopkins, Shannon Scoville, Judy Graci, Ben Peterson**. The Committee met three times this year. The focus of the committee was to review the 2021 budget and the 2022 budget and make recommendations to the Council. The committee also reviewed the status of accounts receivable collection and methods to improve collections. Many volunteer hours by Kit have helped to get the Village's financials in order and ready for audit. Thank you, Shannon, Judy, and Ben for your service to the community.

Public Safety Committee members are **Council Member Kristin, Ruff Nancy Carufel, Donovan Dixon, Laurence Paquet, Eric Peeters, and Missy Thost**. This year, the Committee focused on traffic safety throughout the Village, with emphasis on Mary Street and the "downtown" intersections of FM 2769, Wharf Cove, Lime Creek Road and Dodd Street. Committee members also considered the Village's arrangement with contracting

off-duty police officers for traffic safety/crime prevention during the summer months. Thank you, Nancy, Donovan, Laurence, Eric, and Missy for your volunteer service to this community.

Public Works Committee members are **Jan Yenawine, Judy Graci, Bill Wilson and Ben Peterson**. There was basically no Public Works file at the Village office, so past work/bids had to be retrieved and reviewed. The Village Road Maintenance Plan for paving has not been followed since 2017. The need for Volente to have a road consultant and/or engineer working on a contract basis to provide recommendations for road maintenance and to inspect road work being done was a priority. Also, it would provide professional guidance for a smooth transition between Councils and PWC members. The Village now has approved contracts with Robert Dial, road consultant, and Robert Nelson, general road repair. With Covid, Travis County has been way behind in scheduling road maintenance and paving. The Village could only have all Volente roads crack sealed this year. The striping of Lime Creek Rd. from Jackson to the city limits was paid for in June and has not been done. In January 2022, the Village has to have the paving plan estimated and paid for to be placed on Travis County's work calendar for 2022. The Committee has been working on a Drainage, Shoulder Repair and Edge of Road Repair Plan.

The following has been completed or in the process of being completed by the PWC over the last two years:

New Interlocal Agreement with Travis County • Robert Dial contract approved • Robert Nelson contract approved • Crack Seal of all Volente roads completed in August '21 • **Signs**: Replaced 5 missing Stop Signs • 2 Street Signs and a Directional Sign; Installation of City Limit Sign on LCR and on FM 2769 (still in process) **Striping**: Lime Creek Rd. from Jackson to Village Limits and the crosswalk at Wharf Cove (still in process) **Mowing**: Completed in Oct. '20 Still waiting for Travis County bid for Fall '21. **Herbicide**: Completed in May '21 (4 - year gap from last herbicide treatment) **Tree Trimming/Brush Cutting**: Dec '20 to Feb '21 (3 year gap from last cutting). LCR **Sinkhole repair** completed in June '21.

Claudia Wilson: "I am so grateful for Jan Yenawine, Judy Graci, Bill Wilson and Ben Peterson who served on the PWC. You are all so committed and such hard workers. This committee has been successful because of each and every one of you."

Planning & Zoning Commission Year End Summary

The current Planning and Zoning Commissioners are Phil Mitchell, Tom Blauvelt, Nancy Carufel, Mary Scherer, and Missy Thost. Alternates are Daryl Brooks and Pat McLemore. Thank you to these members for the time and energy you put into studying the requests and your visits to the sites, and your attendance at the meetings.

Planning and Zoning meetings from January 2021 through November 2021 results:

Date	Subject	Submitted By	Motion	Provisions	Outcome
Feb 16	Rezone from Residential to a Utility District	BCRUA	To recommend	na	5 Ayes / 0 Nays
May 11	Waive requirement to build out Mary Street	Thistle Dew Ranch	To recommend	na	5 Ayes / 0 Nays
Sep 22	Build in flood plain to avoid removal of trees	Gary & Sherry Jones	To recommend	na	5 Ayes / 0 Nays
	Driveway Variances	BCRUA	-	-	Tabled
Oct 12	Driveway Variances	BCRUA	To recommend	na	3 Ayes / 2 Nays
	Site Plan	BCRUA	To recommend	add eight parking spaces.	3 Ayes / 2 Nays

Board of Adjustments Year End Summary

The Board of Adjustment members are Mike Gold, Gary Murphy, Ken “Buster” Nace, Cynthia Mallow, and Jan Yenawine. Alternates are Sean Ryan and Donovan Dixon. Thank you for your service to the Village. The Board of Adjustments met once during the 2021 calendar year. The Board heard a request made by the BCRUA to reduce the number of parking spaces at the BCRUA Maintenance building from the required number by ordinances (in this case 12) to 4. This request was denied.